

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3685

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: HIDALGO STATE AND PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

REFS: (A) MEXICO 3558, (B) MEXICO 3523

1. SINCE REF, THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DECISION TO PROCEED
TO OUST GOVERNOR ONTONIEL MIRANDA OF HIDALGO. ON APRIL 23:

(A) CNC (AGRARIAN SECTOR OF RULING PARTY, PRI) LEADER
SALCEDO MONTEON CALLED FOR ARREST AND INDICTMENT
OF FORMER GOVERNOR SANCHEZ VITE AND MIRANDA, CITING
SEVERAL ALLEGED CRIMES AS BASIS. SALCEDO ALSO
DEMANDED PERMANENT COMMISSION DECLARE "DISAPPEARANCE"
OF POWERS IN HIDALGO;

(B) THREE OTHER AGRARIAN GROUPS DEMANDED OUSTER OF
MIRANDA;

(C) CTM BOSS FIDEL VELAZQUEZ DECLARED HIS SOLIDARITY WITH
NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION STRUGGLE AGAINST MIRANDA;

(D) CNOP (PRI POPULAR SECTOR) LEADER GUTIERREZ RUIZ
SIDED WITH FORCES OPPOSED TO MIRANDA, PRESENTING
FORMAL PETITION TO PERMANENT COMMISSION; AND
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(E) TELEGRAMS OF SUPPORT (PUBLISHED APRIL 26) FROM
STATE CHAPTERS OF THE THREE SECTORS OF PRI
POURED IN FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY.

2. MIRANDA COUNTERATTACKED WITH POLITICAL ADS OF HIS OWN
AND HIS FOLLOWERS ANNOUNCED RALLY OF SUPPORT TO TAKE
PLACE APRIL 26. RALLY WAS CANCELLED, ACCORDING TO GOV'S
OFFICE, DUE TO THREAT OF VIOLENCE FROM IMPORTED AGITATORS.

3. ON APRIL 28, FEDERAL TROOPS WERE PATROLLING STREETS OF
HIDALGO CAPITAL. NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION THREATENED
NATIONAL STRIKE IF MIRANDA WAS NOT THROWN OUT; A MASS OF
SOME 20,000 (UP TO SOME ESTIMATES OF 50,000) CNC MEMBERS
ASSEMBLED IN FRONT OF GOV'S PALACE, REFUSING TO LEAVE
UNTIL MIRANDA GOVERNMENT "FALLS;" SEVERAL THOUSAND
CAMPEÑINOS RAN THROUGH GOVERNOR'S PALACE, SMASHING WINDOWS,
FURNITURE, AND FORCING GOV AND STATE EMPLOYEES OUT. CNC IS
ALSO DEMANDING SANCHEZ VITE AND MIRANDA BE EXPELLED FROM PRI.

4. LATE APRIL 28 PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA NAMED FIVE CABINET
OFFICERS (INCLUDING GOVERNMENT SECRETARY MOYA PALENCIA AND
AGRARIAN REFORM SECRETARY GOMEZ VILLANUEVA) AS A SPECIAL
COMMISSION TO HEAR COMPLAINTS OF HIDALGO CITIZENS.

5. COMMENT: IT NOW SEEMS APPARENT THAT PERMANENT COMMISSION,
IN DEFERRING ACTION APRIL 22, DID SO WITH INTENT TO MAKE THIS
POLITICAL LYNCHING NICE AND LEGAL. WE BELIEVE IT WILL DECLARE
MIRANDA'S POWERS TO HAVE "DISAPPEARED" IN ITS SESSION
APRIL 29, NO DOUBT CITING (PRI ORCHESTRATED) ANARCHY IN
PACHUCA AS REASON. ONE OBSTACLE TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
NAMING NEW GOVERNOR WITH ALLEGIANCE TO MEXICO CITY IS
THAT FEDERAL CONSTITUTION GIVES GOM THAT PEROGATIVE
ONLY IF STATE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR SUCCESSOR.
HIDALGO CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT MAYOR OF PACHUCA (IN
THIS CASE, A SANCHEZ VITE MAN) SUCCEEDS TO GOVERNORSHIP.
WE ARE CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT MEXICAN POLITICAL INGENUITY
WILL FIND A WAY TO OVERCOME THIS ROADBLOCK TO MAKE CLEAN
SWEEP. IF THAT HAPPENS, SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT MOYA
PALENICA WILL HAVE WON RESOUNDING VICTORY OVER SANCHEZ VITE
WHO LAST OCTOBER ATTACKED MOYA AND AT THAT TIME APPEARED TO
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GET AWAY WITH IT. AS REF B REPORTED, THERE IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL
EVIDENCE THAT SANCHEZ VITE WAS SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENCY
SECRETARY CERVANTES DEL RIO, E.G. EL SOL DE MEXICO, A PAPER
SYMPATHETIC TO CERVANTES, HAS DOWNPLAYED WHOLE INCIDENT AND
POLITICAL COMMENTATORS HAVE HINTED AT HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH
SANCHEZ VITE.

6. SPECIAL COMMISSION PROBABLY NAMED TO COOL PASSIONS OF

CAMPESINOS, WHO NO DOUBT WENT FURTHER THAN THEIR ORGANIZERS
INTENDED.
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